

New CIA Chief McCone Has Respect And Friendship in Both Parties

Ability Displayed in Service Under Both Truman and Eisenhower.

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JOHN A. McCONE, named yesterday as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is a wealthy Republican west coast industrialist who has won widespread respect and friendship in both parties.

Little or no opposition is expected when his name goes to the Senate for confirmation. That will not be until next January, because President Kennedy announced the appointment after both houses had adjourned yesterday.

Senate hearings are not likely to reflect the opposition among some Democrats who object to another Republican appointment, and among those who remember McCone's retaliation against a group of West Coast scientists who advocated a moratorium on nuclear weapons tests in 1956.

McCone demonstrated his ability to charm the opposition as Under Secretary of the Air Force under President Truman and as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission under President Eisenhower.

IN HIS YEARS in Washington, he earned a name among some of his subordinates as a strict taskmaster and a "difficult fellow to work with." Even his household servants have found him a harsh and demanding employer, it is said.

Both these attributes could well have figured in Mr. Kennedy's decision to name him to succeed Allen W. Dulles. Dulles served throughout the Eisenhower Administration and was retained by Mr. Kennedy in one of his first official acts, three days after his election.

The President is known to have sought someone who would accept the job as a long-term assignment. It is understood that Mr. Kennedy wanted a director who would give the CIA a thorough house cleaning in the light of the disastrous invasion of Cuba which the agency planned, financed and directed last April.

McCone's behavior as AEC chairman indicates he will continue to be an implacable opponent of a nuclear test ban unless accompanied by an impossibly perfect control system.

He came to be known as a "big bomb man," favoring emphasis on strategic nuclear weapons as against those who



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

JOHN A. McCONE

pressed for emphasis on small, tactical nuclear weapons.

He told the Associated Press in 1959: "In my Air Force days, I was devoted to the concept of massive retaliation, and I still am."

NONetheless, McCone sided with the Senate-House Joint Committee on Atomic Energy against the Air Force in a behind-the-scenes struggle that came to a head last winter over the control of nuclear weapons assigned to Allied troops in Europe.

Although the details remain secret, it is known that the Air Force sought a minimum of United States control of the nuclear warheads to satisfy United States law. The joint committee wanted tight controls, arguing that these were necessary to avoid accidentally touching off a nuclear war.

McCone joined a special congressional subcommittee on a tour of European bases and helped tip the balance in favor of a supposedly accident-proof system of tight electronic controls. The incoming Kennedy Administration later accepted his and the joint committee's view.

More recently, McCone assisted the joint committee in its efforts to win congressional approval of a dual purpose atomic plant at Hanford, Wash.

The project, killed in the House, would have produced electric power from heat otherwise dumped into the Columbia river.

McCone sided strongly with Representative Chet Holifield (Dem.), California, and Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico, ranking Senate Democrat on the committee, writing letters which were quoted in debate on the measure. He backed Senator Thomas Kuchel (Rep.), California, who was being criticized at home for supporting the project.

Earlier, McCone had seemed to oppose the project. He had ordered an engineering study which showed the project would be uneconomical and which Anderson later assailed as a rigged survey. Surveys by the Federal Power Commission and by the joint committee later concluded that the project would be worthwhile.

"He appears flexible, but that's not exactly it," says one Congressional observer. "It's more that he knows how to roll with the punch."

IN GETTING ALONG well with the joint committee, McCone

contrasted sharply with his predecessor, Lewis L. Strauss, who engaged in a bitter feud with the committee Democrats.

He got along so well that one careful neutral observer says he "wanted peace at any price with the committee—he capitulated 100 per cent."

McCone learned well the Washington game of winning friends and influencing people. His wealth enabled him to entertain legislative and executive officials and influential newspaper columnists lavishly at his home on the edge of Washington's Rock Creek Park and at his 10-acre estate in Pasadena, Calif. He became known for his shipboard parties on the liner United States, on which he and his wife virtually commuted to and from Europe on business trips.

HIS FIRST BIG federal assignment was as a member of President Truman's Air Policy Commission in 1947. Thomas K. Finletter, chairman of the commission, now is Mr. Kennedy's ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

McCone came to know President Eisenhower when the five-star general testified before the commission as one of its most important witnesses.

Finletter and Senator Stuart

Symington recruited McCone for Under Secretary of the Air Force. Symington then was secretary.

Despite his Democratic ties, McCone has helped the Republicans when political campaign time came around. He is a leading Republican contributor in California. He is said to have paid personally for President Eisenhower's campaign train in California in 1956. He was finance chairman for the southern part of the state in Senator William F. Knowland's unsuccessful campaign for governor in 1958.

Official records here for 1960 show only a \$1000 contribution by McCone to the Republican committee for the District of Columbia.

IN THE 1956 CAMPAIGN he clashed with 10 faculty members at California Institute of Technology, of which McCone was a trustee. The group was headed by Harrison Brown, a geophysicist who is an adviser to the Kennedy Administration, and it included Carl Anderson, a Nobel prize-winning physicist. They issued a statement supporting the proposal by Adlai E. Stevenson, the Democratic nominee, that the United States lead the way in halting nuclear weapons tests and ban them as long as other nations did so.

The group complained later to Senator Anderson, then chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, that McCone had demanded that the 10 be fired. They were not. McCone subsequently resigned from the chairmanship of the Cal Tech finance committee and later from the board of trustees.

Anderson questioned McCone

about the matter in 1958 on McCone's nomination as AEC chairman, but McCone was never asked, nor did he say, whether he had demanded the dismissal of the 10 scientists.

Anderson said he understood someone else had asked that the 10 had been fired and that McCone had taken violent exception to their statement. He asked whether McCone thought scientists working for the AEC would dare express themselves on the subject if he became chairman.

McCone replied that "there was no scientist fired from Cal Tech on advice or recommendation from me, sir," and said he had no objection to scientists entering political controversies as long as they did not involve their institutions.

THREE TIMES McCone has been mentioned prominently as a possible Republican Secretary of Defense. He was mentioned for that post before Mr. Eisenhower selected the late Charles E. Wilson of General Motors and before Neil H. McElroy was appointed after Wilson's resignation. Richard M. Nixon was said to be considering him for the same post when Nixon was campaigning for the presidency last fall.

McCone was born Jan. 4, 1902, in San Francisco. His ancestors had been in the machinery and manufacturing business since 1860, when his grandfather started a small iron foundry in Nevada. He was graduated from the University of California in 1922 with a science degree and went into engineering and construction work.

His first important job was with the Llewellyn Iron Works

about the latter in 1928. He became a construction superintendent. He went on to the Consolidated Steel Corp. as superintendent in 1929. By 1933 he had become executive vice president and director of that firm. He left it in 1937 to form his own corporation.

Throughout his business career, he has had diversified interests in shipbuilding companies, banks, insurance companies, construction firms and steamship lines.

HE COMMANDS a fleet of 50 cargo ships and tankers as owner of the Joshua Hendy Corp. in Los Angeles. In World War II, as president of the California Shipbuilding Corp., he built 467 ships for the Government, at a total cost of about one billion dollars.

In one year recently, his firm had six ships built in German shipyards and a huge tanker built in a Japanese shipyard.

He has been a joiner of exclusive social and country clubs on the east and west coasts and in Washington. They include the California and Washington Country Clubs; Pacific Union in San Francisco; Cypress Point near Monterey; Burning Tree, Metropolitan and F Street in Washington, and the Links and Blind Brook Clubs near New York City. He is said to shoot golf in the low 80s.

He married the former Rosemary Cooper in 1938. They have no children.

His white hair and rimless glasses give him the look of a man of distinction. He speaks directly and forcefully, but quietly, even when enraged.

As a leading Roman Catholic layman, McCone represented the

United States at the seventeenth anniversary of Pope Pius XII's coronation in 1956 and at the Pope's funeral in Rome in 1958. He is a close friend of Cardinal James Francis McIntyre of Los Angeles.

The CIA post was offered to McCone after Fowler Hamilton had refused to commit himself to accept it for more than three and one half years. Hamilton, a New York lawyer, was named director of the new Agency for International Development last week.

The appointment is effective in November. McCone will come to Washington next week to work